

U.S. Application No. 10/733,206
Attorney Docket No. 48332-0001
Response to Notice of Allowance dated February 14, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace or amend the following paragraphs of the specification.

Please amend paragraph [0001] at page 1, as follows:

[0001] This invention relates to a preconstruction utility meter pedestal that ~~which~~ is adapted to be mounted on a building foundation, after the foundation has been completed~~[[,]]~~ but before the construction of a building on the foundation has been started. In new construction projects, there typically is no utility service until construction has progressed to a certain degree. Utility companies are often unwilling to run utilities to a site until the service meter can be secured from theft of service and secured from damage during continued construction. Conversely, those same utility companies, particularly electricity providers, have a commercial incentive to begin service as early as possible to generate profits from sale of service. Contractors who run power tools such as electrical saws prefer to have on-site power so that they can avoid transporting portable electric generators to the site. An additional benefit ~~of in~~ on-site electrical service is ~~has been~~ the availability of electric lighting without the noise of portable generators, which allows workers to work or set up before daylight and to work or clean up after sundown without disturbing surrounding residents.

Please amend paragraph [0002] beginning on page 1, as follows:

[0002] An additional issue that has grown in importance is the act of bringing the utilities to the site from the common line. Typically, utilities are laid at the beginning of a development to one or more distribution points, such as utility boxes at the street easement between parcels. Nearly all electrical, telephone and cable services are distributed to developments below ground, as are all natural gas services. This has caused problems in the sequential digging of trenches from the most downstream utility distribution point to the construction site. Each utility typically digs its own trench, but only after having any previously installed utilities marked, which adds costs but ~~and yet~~ still does not eliminate accidents.

Please amend paragraph [0014] at page 7, as follows:

[0014] The foundation lower mounting plate for the elongated rigid steel pipe is adapted to be secured to the outer face of a building foundation at a below grade location, and to be fastened to the foundation by any suitable means, e.g., ~~as by~~ power driven nails. The foundation upper mounting plate is provided in different configurations which permits the utility meter pedestal to be installed selectively on

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a building foundation wherein a siding is to be installed on the exterior building walls, or on a building foundation having a brick ledge.

Please amend paragraph [0022] beginning on page 8, as follows:

[0022] As shown in FIGS. 1-4, the utility meter pedestal 10 is provided with a pair of meter mounting plates 30 and 31 which have their there upper end secured to the rear side of the electrical utility meter box 16 and gas utility meter box 17 by a plurality of suitable machine bolts which extend through the rear wall of the meter utility meter box and have operatively mounted thereon suitable locknuts. The bolts are permanently secured to the plates 30 and 31 by any suitable means, e.g. as by having the heads thereof peened, so that the nuts can be removed from the front end of the bolts and the electrical utility meter box 16 or gas utility meter box 17 changed without removing the pedestal 10 from a building on which it is mounted.

Please amend paragraph [0025] beginning on page 10, as follows:

[0025] As shown in FIG. 2, the temporary power box 54 has a cover 55 to protect the outlet inside from the elements. Where appropriate, a notice in the form of a printed sticker is preferably placed upon the outside of the cover, requiring the temporary power box 54 to be removed before a gas meter 17 is installed on the gas meter mounting plate 31. A similar notice is preferable placed upon the gas meter mounting plate. Thus, in areas where regulations consider the power box 54 to be a source of ignition, the installation of the gas meter 17 may ~~to~~ be delayed until electric service is available within the dwelling, typically after the dwelling has been framed. At this point when heat (gas utility) would be most needed for interior work, electric service is typically available in the dwelling. Thus, the temporary power box 54 can be removed and the gas meter 17 installed. Preferably, the gas and electric lines (and phone and cable lines) were installed in the same trench, and the gas line capped at the pedestal. Thus, the gas meter can be easily installed and gas utility service provided essentially on demand. In areas where an electric meter is considered an ignition source or if it is desirable to continue to use the temporary power box along with gas services, the plate 31 can be configured to extend away from the pipe 14 to create the spacing required by regulation (typically 3')

Please amend paragraph [0026] at page 11, as follows:

[0026] An attachment arm 62, in the form of an elongated flat plate, has an upper end thereof secured by a mounting bolt for the pipe clamp 39 to the top back plate 30. The other end of the attachment arm 62 is fixedly secured by a bolt and a suitable nut (not shown) and a conduit clamp, generally

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indicated by the numeral 68. The clamp 68 has a pair of integral curved clamp arms which are disposed around the upper end of a vertically disposed communication cable conduit 78. The C-clamp 68 functions to hold the upper end of the communication cable conduit 78 in a position spaced from the elongated rigid steel pipe 14 and in a position parallel thereto.